

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEA-10 SWF-02 AID-20

CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /167 W

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R 291600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, SP, FR

SUBJ: BARRERA MEETS WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING

1. A HIGH LEVEL GOS FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCE WHO WAS A PARTICIPANT TOLD AN EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING REGARDING GOS FINANCE MINISTER BARRERA DE IRIMO'S MEETING WITH FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING IN PARIS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26.

A. THE THREE HOUR-LONG LUNCHEON MEETING TOOK PLACE AS A RESULT OF GISCARD'S INITIATIVE. THE MEETING WAS DESCRIBED AS "A VERY GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON" WHICH HAD THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS. WHILE THEY KNEW ONE ANOTHER FROM PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS, IT WAS FELT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER.

B. BARRERA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE SPANISH GISCARD AND THEIR POLITICAL IMAGES ARE FAIRLY SIMILAR IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. FOR THIS REASON IT WAS USEFUL FOR THEM TO COMPARE NOTES.

C. GISCARD WISHED TO ENGAGE IN A LITTLE
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DIPLOMACY OF HIS OWN TO DIFFERENTIATE HIMSELF FROM THE

JOBERT LINE WITH WHICH HE DEFINITELY WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT. GISCARD REPORTEDLY SAID HE DID NOT LIKE THE FRENCH OIL POLICY AND THE COZYING UP TO THE ARABS. FURTHERMORE, HE WAS MUCH LESS ANTAGONISTIC THAN JOBERT VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES.

D. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMANT, BARRERA PURPOSELY INVITED AMBASSADOR RIVERO TO LUNCH THE DAY BEFORE HIS TRIP TO VISIT WITH GISCARD SO THAT THE FRENCH WOULD KNOW SPAIN HAD OTHER ALTERNATIVES AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT JUST "FALL INTO THE COMMUNITY'S ARMS." BARRERA INFORMED GISCARD THAT THE SPANISH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COMMUNITY WAS NOT SO STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF A FULL PARTNERSHIP AS BEFORE. THE MINFIN OFFICIAL TOLD THE EMBOFF THAT THIS LINE COULD VERY WELL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A TACTICAL PLOY IN THE BARGAINING WITH THE COMMUNITY.

E. THE INFORMANT SAID THAT WHILE HE PARTICIPATED IN 90 PERCENT OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE PRINCIPALS, THE TWO MINISTERS DID HAVE ABOUT 15 MINUTES TOGETHER ALONE, DURING WHICH TIME, OF COURSE, HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS DISCUSSED. WHILE THE BASQUE-ETA PROBLEM DID NOT COME UP IN HIS PRESENCE, HE SAID IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TREATED IN THE PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION TO WHICH HE WAS NOT PRIVY.
RIVERO

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